

Directional Anisotropy of *Swift* Gamma-Ray Bursts

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Abstract. Swift satellite measurements contributed substantially to the gamma-ray burst (GRB) redshift observations through fast slewing to the source of the GRBs. Still, a large number of bursts are without redshift. We study the celestial distribution of bursts with various methods and compare them to a random catalog using Monte-Carlo simulations. We find an anisotropy in the distribution of the intermediate class of bursts and find that the short and long population are distributed isotropically.

Keywords: gamma-rays: bursts, methods: statistical

PACS: 95.55.Ka, 95.85.Pw, 97.10.Yp, 98.62.Py, 98.62.Ve

INTRODUCTION

Swift-BAT can observe 1.4 sr of the sky at any given moment. Its field of view is not uniform in sensitivity. We search for directional anisotropies of the GRBs using coordinate-system independent tests. To compute the significance of the tests we perform Monte-Carlo simulations for the short, intermediate and long populations of the bursts taking into account the exposure function of *Swift*. The group memberships are calculated on the hardness-duration plane using a modified maximum likelihood method [1]. While the exposure map of *BATSE* [2] depends only on the declination, *Swift* has a more complicated exposure function. To deal with this, we used the HEALPix [3] pixelization algorithm.

EXPOSURE FUNCTION

Because Swift makes pointed observations, its sky sensitivity map will be dependent on many factors. We place the Swift sensitivity mask on the celestial sphere centered on the (α, δ) coordinates in the catalog. We rotate the mask with the appropriate angle as indicated by the *Roll_angle* parameter. Then we multiply this with the exposure time spent on that location. We carry out this exercise for all observations and sum up the results. The exposure map on Fig. 1 shows a paucity of exposure time in the direction of the ecliptic, and a variation of roughly a factor of two between the extremes. It also shows a similarity in structure with the 22 month exposure map of Tueller J. et al. [4].

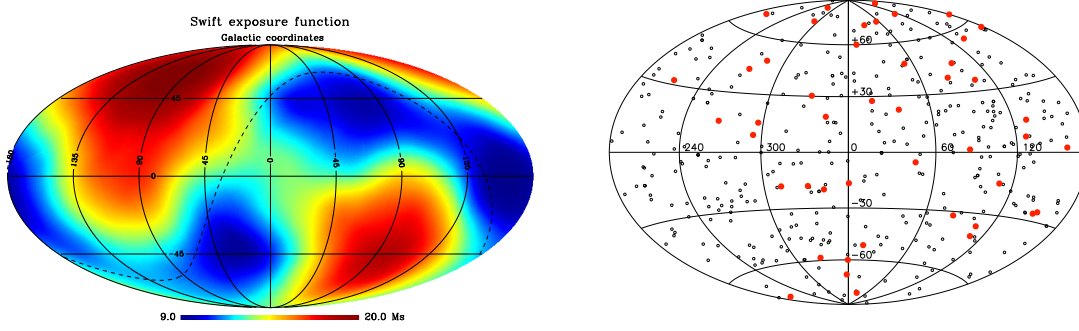


FIGURE 1. Figures showing the Swift exposure function in Mollweide projection in Galactic coordinates(left). The dotted line shows the ecliptic plane. The celestial distribution of the intermediate group (filled red circles) and the total sample (empty black circles) (right).

TESTS OF ISOTROPY

Here we use the tests put forward by Briggs [5]. The test statistics are the following:

$$M_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \begin{bmatrix} x_i x_i & x_i y_i & x_i z_i \\ y_i x_i & y_i y_i & y_i z_i \\ z_i x_i & z_i y_i & z_i z_i \end{bmatrix} \quad R = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{r}_i \quad B = \frac{15N}{2} \sum_{k=1}^3 \left(\lambda_k - \frac{1}{3} \right)^2$$

Here N is the number of elements, x_i, y_i and z_i are the Cartesian coordinates of the bursts on the unit sphere, r_i is the unit vector pointing to the bursts and λ_k are the eigenvalues of M_N ($\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3$). These statistics are independent of the coordinate system. R is the Rayleigh and B is the Bingham statistic. W is the Watson statistic, related simply to R as $M = 3R^2/N$.

RESULTS

We calculated the test statistic values for the actual observed distribution of the Swift bursts. Afterwards we simulate 1000 catalogues according to the exposure function for the different populations and calculate the mentioned statistics. We find the short and long population are distributed isotropically (p-values from 0.29 to 0.694 for the hypothesis of isotropic distribution). The intermediate population however, shows a marked anisotropy (p-values from 0.038 to 0.072). (see Table 1.) In the distribution of the intermediate duration group we see a dearth of bursts in the lower left part of the sky-distribution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by OTKA grant K077795, by OTKA/NKTH A08-77719 and A08-77815 grants (Z.B.), by the GAČR grant No. P209/10/0734 (A.M.), by the Research Program MSM0021620860 of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic (A.M.) and by a Bolyai Scholarship (I.H.).

TABLE 1. The different statistics' value for the three groups with p -values showing the probability of the measured value occurring by chance based on 1000 MC simulations.

group	N	Bingham (p -value)	Rayleigh (p -value)	M_N eigenv. λ_1 (p -value)
short	31	78.6 (0.644)	5.6 (0.409)	0.387 (0.553)
interm.	46	123.8 (0.038)	10.4 (0.089)	0.441 (0.072)
long	331	831.5 (0.694)	23.2 (0.290)	0.364 (0.645)

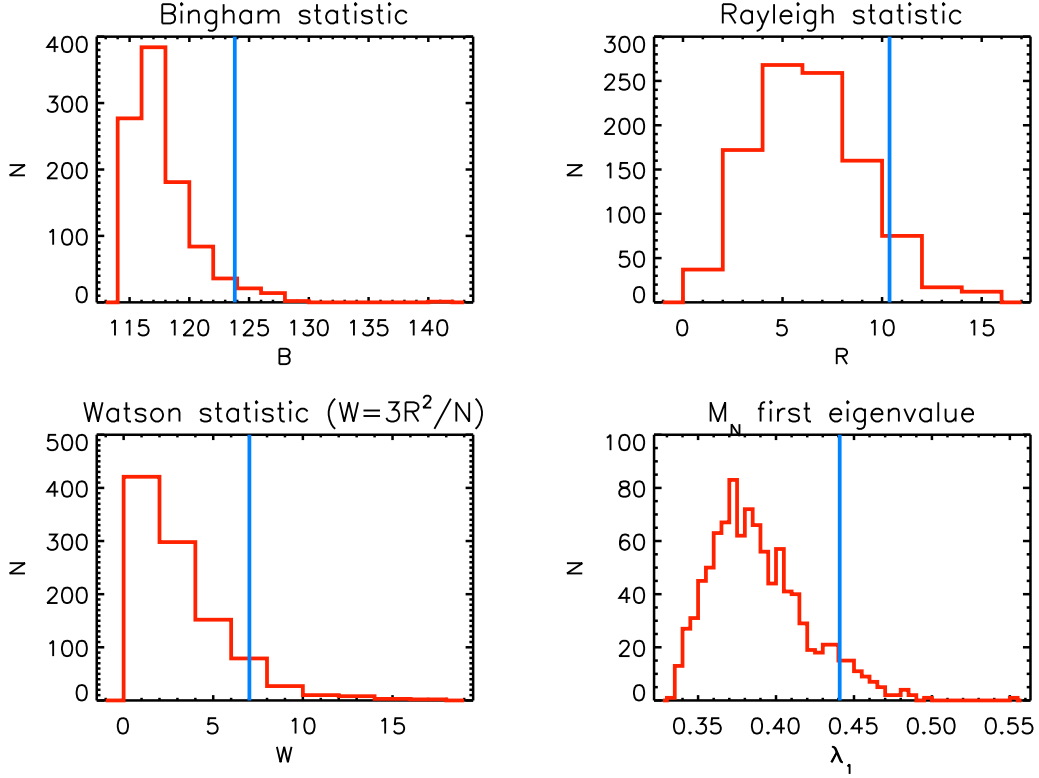


FIGURE 2. The distribution of 1000 MC simulated values of the four statistics for the intermediate-very soft group. The vertical lines mark the values of the measured data statistic.

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